



MICHIGAN
CHAMBER
of Commerce

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Education Reform Committee

From: Wendy Block, Michigan Chamber

Subject: MI Chamber's Concerns with HB 4501

Date: January 11, 2018

The purpose of this memo is to voice the Michigan Chamber's opposition to HB 4501, legislation to eliminate statewide use of the WorkKeys assessment, a job skills test that measures how well-prepared students are for the workforce.

While understand the desire to streamline Michigan's student testing regimen and free up state testing dollars, we would urge you not to rush to eliminate the WorkKeys assessment. The Michigan Chamber has many members who feel strongly about and rely on the WorkKeys assessment and wish to see it retained. Put simply, this test is the only assessment Michigan currently has to gauge career readiness. While the state pays significant attention to college readiness, workforce readiness is often overlooked. The WorkKeys assessment is intended to help employers with their talent challenges by assessing a pupil's ability to apply reading and mathematics skills in a manner that will help employers in the hiring process.

If you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me at 517-371-2100.